

VIMS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Given the long time frame necessary to effectively address recurrent flooding and sea level rise issues and given the speed at which risks are projected to increase, Virginia and its coastal localities should immediately begin comprehensive and coordinated planning efforts.
2. The State should initiate identification, collection and analysis of data needed to support effective planning for response to recurrent flooding issues in Virginia.
3. The State should take a lead role in addressing recurrent flooding in Virginia for the following reasons:
 - a. Accessing relevant federal resources for planning and mitigation may be enhanced through state mediation.
 - b. Flooding problems are linked to water bodies and therefore often transcend locality boundaries.
 - c. Resource prioritization efforts will require consistent or standardized assessment protocols across all localities and regions.
 - d . Localities do not feel enabled to address all flooding and sea level rise issues.
4. The State should request an expert review of local government legal authority to address current and projected flooding risks and what levels of evidence are likely to be required to justify locality action. The State should then enact any enabling authority needed to allow localities to address current and projected flooding issues.
5. The State should develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing recurrent flooding issues throughout Tidewater Virginia.